

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate. The Republican budget contains \$200 billion more in debt reduction than does the Democrat proposals. You heard that right. Our budget is better on debt reduction than the Democrat budget is according to the Congressional Budget Office.

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But one would never know it from listening to some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, many of whom seem to be positively incapable of describing our tax cut proposal accurately.

Republicans call for both tax relief and debt reduction in our proposal. Indeed, our plan would reduce the debt held by the public by slightly over \$2 trillion over the next 10 years. To call that irresponsible is reckless or a bit odd. We have a balanced and fair plan that not only provides for debt reduction and tax relief, but insists on a Social Security and Medicare lockbox provision for the first time. One hundred percent of the retirement surplus would go to Social Security and Medicare.

In other words, all FICA taxes would actually go towards the programs they were designed to go towards, Social Security and Medicare.

Do Democrats really think that is reckless?

PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, to prevent potential catastrophic nationwide computer meltdown, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, is fighting brokers and firms to ensure that their computers actually read "00" as of January 1 of 2000.

Recently an 87-year-old broker who has spent 50 years in the investment business was fined \$5,000 for not being Y2K compliant. There is only one problem. This particular gentleman does not own a computer. His operation is so small, he does not actually sell them mutual funds; he just gives advice. He never touches any money at all.

Mr. Speaker, that has not stopped the SEC from demanding a yearly audit of his firm which costs him another \$5,000. He went ahead, and he paid the original Y2K fine because he could not afford the money to fight the bureaucracy.

He will not be without a computer for long, however. New SEC regulations insist that all brokers have a computer so they can receive e-mail notices from the agencies.

Here we have a legitimate business-man being harassed and intimidated by his own government agency paid for by his own tax dollars. Outrageous. It is inexcusable and a waste of taxpayers' time and money.

The Securities and Exchange Commission gets my porker of the week award and my disgust.

STOP THE ANTI-MINING GREED

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, well, here we go again. The left-leaning, anti-mining zealots want a Federal tax on all mining operations on an estimated, hypothetical, or proposed value of a mine. Moreover, the proposed values that are given to these mines are nothing but sheer guesses that always grossly overexaggerate the worth of the mineral deposit.

For example, some of these mining opponents cite the Stillwater Mine in Montana as a taxpayer giveaway of \$38 billion. Grossly exaggerated, Mr. Speaker. \$38 billion could fund a hostile takeover of the Ford Motor Company. This amount of money could purchase the entire metal mining industry in the United States and Canada.

Some claim that patents to Barrick Gold Mine have a value of \$10 billion. Keep in mind that the supposed 10 billion is wrapped up in a small acreage of desert rock. Using their irrational logic, one could say that the raw land beneath the Washington Post printing plant would be worth several billion dollars itself.

In 1556 Georgious Agricola stated the miners should start mining operations in a district only where it is friendly. This quote still holds true today. Stop the anti-mining greed.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF REV. BOOKER T. SEARS OF SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

(Mr. DEMINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, every community has citizens that strive to improve the way of life for all those around them. They serve others because they want to, not because they have to.

One such man was Reverend Booker T. Sears of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Last week Reverend Sears, a pioneer civil rights leader and respected community leader, passed away at his home. Reverend Sears was pastor of Thompson Street Baptist Church for nearly 50 years. His efforts within the community helped integrate public schools, desegregate public transportation, and develop many community improvement projects.

Reverend Sears will be remembered as a man who truly cared about all those around him. During his career, he was a mentor to young pastors and a servant to everyone in the community.

Reverend Sears is a testimony of one man making a difference in the lives of thousands, Mr. Speaker. We will miss Reverend Sears. It is now our time to carry on his mission off love and service.

LANCE ARMSTRONG: THE REAL MCCOY

(Mr. KASICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, Sunday afternoon I took the time to sit and really celebrate vicariously, as much as it would be appropriate, as Lance Armstrong pedaled the final 2,300 miles into Paris. What an amazing story for a man who many had given up on. Given less than a 50-50 chance to even survive the cancer that wracked his body, he had incredible steely determination, and he was able to not only overcome cancer, but also to prove so many of the sponsors who had given up on him wrong.

As my colleagues know, this is a time in America when we are all in search of heroes, all in search of the real McCoy. As my colleagues know, I think Lance Armstrong is the real McCoy. When he crossed that victory stripe and he was interviewed by the network, he had not prepared some big braggadocio speech. In fact, it took him 2 or 3 questions to finally get Lance Armstrong to say that with human beings many times we get a second chance, and the second chance may even be better and greater than the first chance.

Lance Armstrong is humble, determined and an inspiration and should be a hero to everyone who lives not just in the boundaries of the United States but around the globe to adults, to our seniors, and to children alike.

God bless you, Lance Armstrong, for your accomplishment.

PRESCRIPTION POLITICS

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the President has proposed that the Medicare program provide free drug prescription. Now anyone with a basic understanding of how markets work knows that the President's proposal will increase demand and ultimately drive up the price of prescription drugs. This in turn will cause insurance rates to rise for everyone who has prescription drug coverage and further worsen the burden of those who do not have drug coverage.

As the price of drugs rise, Medicare's financial position will worsen, and this will lead to higher tax costs for everyone and pressure from the government to put price controls on prescription drugs. This will lead to shortages of prescription drugs and a slowdown in research for new and better drugs. Eventually bureaucrats in Washington will be telling seniors what prescription drugs they are going to be allowed to have.

Now the President is proposing free prescription drugs because at first glance it appears to give seniors something for nothing. But he and his advisers know as well as I do the harm that